

Dear Montgomery County Council Members:

I live near Sligo Creek Park; walk there frequently and see first hand the recreation it provides for users whether they are soccer players, dog walkers among others. It is a valuable public resource.

The Friends of Sligo Creek community group cleans the park gratis and their work must provide Montgomery County some break on maintenance costs. I used to volunteer regularly with their park clean up until I got too old help out as often.

Now that County schools students participate in the Friends of Sligo park clean up, in addition to their work it also contributes to the students' appreciation of this valuable community resource.

Besides the park's recreational and educational benefits, the Park is environmentally important.

I'm sure there are other ways to save money. Please don't take money from the Sligo Creek Park budget to make other ends meet. I know County Council members have to make difficult decisions. However let's not sacrifice Sligo Creek Park and other parks by taking away park funding for them.

Furthermore, in the area I walk in, Montgomery County has taken on extensive restoration work on the Sligo Creek paths and bridges. What will happen to this work if funding is curtailed? This is not to time to suspend such initiatives besides the obvious benefits to the park, it also helps keep workers employed.

Montgomery County taxes are high and I'd like to see that its parks get their fair share of funding and completion of the on-going restoration. In my opinion, it might be better to delay work on projects the Country hasn't undertaken than to interrupt on-going ones.

Sincerely,

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